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**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Small Entity)***(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*Docket No.
JEN-0005-ZTotal Pages in this Submission
27**TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF DENTAL PORCELAIN HAVING SMALL LEUCITE CRYSTALLITES

and invented by:

Carlino Panzera and Lisa M. Kaiser

If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:☒ **Continuation** ☐ **Divisional** ☐ **Continuation-in-part (CIP)** of prior application No.: 08/870,965

Which is a:

☐ **Continuation** ☒ **Divisional** ☐ **Continuation-in-part (CIP)** of prior application No.: 08/614,044

Which is a:

☐ **Continuation** ☐ **Divisional** ☐ **Continuation-in-part (CIP)** of prior application No.:

Enclosed are:

Application Elements

1. ☐ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 14 pages and including the following:
 - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - b. ☒ Cross References to Related Applications *(if applicable)*
 - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development *(if applicable)*
 - d. ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix *(if applicable)*
 - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
 - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
 - g. ☐ Brief Description of the Drawings *(if drawings filed)*
 - h. ☒ Detailed Description
 - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
 - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Small Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

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Total Pages in this Submission
27

Application Elements (Continued)

3. ☐ Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)
- a. ☐ Formal b. ☐ Informal Number of Sheets _____
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy) ☒ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional application only)
- c. ☒ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney
- d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (usable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche
7. ☐ Genetic Sequence Submission (if applicable, all must be included)
- a. ☐ Paper Copy
- b. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
- c. ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

Accompanying Application Parts

8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documents)
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee)
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☒ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☐ Acknowledgment postcard
14. ☒ Certificate of Mailing
- ☐ First Class ☒ Express Mail (Specify Label No.): EL380642018US

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Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☒ Small Entity Statement(s) - Specify Number of Statements Submitted: One (1) Copy
17. ☒ Additional Enclosures (please identify below):

Postcard Filing Receipt

Fee Calculation and Transmittal

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	7	- 20 =	0	x \$9.00	\$0.00
Indep. Claims	1	- 3 =	0	x \$39.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$380.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose)					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$380.00

- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. _____ as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____ as filing fee.
 - ☐ Credit any overpayment.
 - ☐ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
 - ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

Dated: December 14, 1999


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Applicant or Patentee: Carlino-Pinzera, c Att: 4 JO.058
Serial or Patent No.: Not y signed Docket: JGP-290
Filed or Issued: Concurrently herewith
For: TWO PHASE DENTAL PORCELAIN COMPOSITION

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN Jeneric/Pentron Incorporated
ADDRESS OF CONCERN 53 N. Plains Industrial Road, P.O. Box 724
Wallingford, CT 06492-0724

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9 (d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled by inventor(s) described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith
☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9 (e).

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Martin L. Schulman
TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER Executive Vice President
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 53 N. Plains Industrial Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

SIGNATURE Martin L. Schulman

DATE 3/11/96

METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF DENTAL
PORCELAIN HAVING SMALL LEUCITE CRYSTALLITES

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of United States Application Serial No. 08/870,965, filed June 6, 1997, which is a divisional application of United States Application Serial No. 08/614,044, filed March 12, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,653,791.

Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a two-phase, dental porcelain composition for dental porcelain restorations, as well as inlays, onlays and veneers. More particularly, the present invention relates to a two-phase, low maturing temperature, high expansion feldspathic dental porcelain composition useful in the preparation and repair of dental restorations such as porcelain-fused-to metal restorations, all-ceramic restorations, inlays, onlays, and veneers.

2. Description of the Related Art

Ceramic materials have been used in dentistry in order to obtain natural-looking dental restorations such as porcelain fused-to-metal and all-ceramic restorations. Ceramics are highly desirable for this purpose since they can be colored to closely resemble the teeth

they must replace, resist degradation inside the oral cavity and remain biocompatible even after years of continuous contact with mammalian tissue.

Typically, porcelain fused-to-metal (PFM) restorations are fabricated by applying a dental porcelain powder in aqueous slurry to a metal alloy frame work and firing the porcelain at high temperature to form a tight, impervious porcelain layer having the appearance of natural dentition. Those skilled in the art recognize that it is important that the firing temperature of the porcelain be at least 100° C below the solidus temperature of the alloy used as the metal framework and that the coefficient of thermal expansion of the porcelain (in the range of room temperature to 450° C) be only very slightly less than that of the metal so that no stress cracks are produced in the porcelain layer during firing and cooling down.

Today, there is an increasing trend in dentistry toward the use of ceramic cores in lieu of metal alloy frameworks to thus provide all-ceramic dental restorations. Where a ceramic is employed as the core of a dental restoration, any porcelain applied to the ceramic framework must possess a coefficient of thermal expansion which is slightly less than that of the ceramic to avoid production of stress cracks in the porcelain.

Metal alloys and ceramics heretofore employed in the manufacture of dental restorations have typically possessed moderately high coefficients of thermal expansion ranging from about $8 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$. to about $14 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$. However, alloys and ceramics possessing coefficients of thermal expansion of as high as about $18 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ are increasingly being used.

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In commonly assigned, copending U.S. Appln. Serial No. 08/532,179 filed September 22, 1995, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein, a dental porcelain composition is described which is amorphous, i.e., single phase, and which possess a moderately high coefficient of thermal expansion closely matching those of conventional alloys and ceramics heretofore employed in the manufacture of dental restorations. This composition is advantageously applied to such conventional alloys and ceramics to provide an extremely smooth, fused glassy surface on the resulting dental restorations. However, the coefficient of thermal expansion of the single-phase, amorphous dental porcelain described in U.S. Appln. Serial No. 08/532,179 is too low to be applied to high expansion alloys and porcelains.

A need exists, therefore, for a dental porcelain composition which can be fused to high expansion alloys and ceramics, i.e., those possessing high coefficients of thermal expansion of as high as about $18 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$, to thus provide an extremely smooth surface thereon. An example of a high expansion ceramic is OPTEC™ porcelain available from Jeneric/Pentron, Inc. Wallingford, CT. OPTEC porcelain possesses a high crystalline leucite ($\text{K}_2\text{O} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 4\text{SiO}_2$) content wherein the leucite crystallites broadly range in diameter from about 0.5 microns to as high as about 40 microns.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a dental porcelain composition which is especially suitable for the preparation and repair of dental restorations, as well as inlay, onlays, and veneers, in applications involving high expansion alloys and/or ceramics.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a dental porcelain possessing a maturing temperature ranging from about 650° C. to about 1050° C. and a coefficient of thermal expansion (room temperature to 450° C.) of from about $12 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C.}$ to about $17.5 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C.}$, which is chemically and thermally stable and which provides a smooth, non-abrasive surface when applied to high expansion alloys and ceramics.

Summary of the Invention

These as well as other objects and advantages are accomplished by the present invention which relates to a two-phase porcelain composition comprising a leucite crystallite phase dispersed in a feldspathic glass matrix, a maturing temperature of from about 650° C. to about 1050° C. and a coefficient of thermal expansion (room temperature to 450° C) of from about $12 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C.}$ to about $17.5 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C.}$, said porcelain composition comprising:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Amount (wt.%)</u>
SiO ₂	57-66
Al ₂ O ₃	7-15
K ₂ O	7-15
Na ₂ O	7-12
Li ₂ O	0.5-3
CaO	0-3
MgO	0-7
F	0-4
CeO ₂	0-1

wherein the leucite crystallites possess diameters not exceeding about 10 microns and represent from about 5 to about 65 percent of the two-phase porcelain composition.

It is essential to the practice of the present invention that the leucite crystallites present in the two-phase porcelain composition herein possess diameters not exceeding about

10 microns. Diameters in excess of about 10 microns will impart an undesirably rough and uneven surface to the composition when employed in its intended environment of use.

Indeed, it has been determined that leucite diameters above about 10 microns may wear away local dentition and cause discomfort/irritation inside the oral cavity.

5

Detailed Description of the Invention

The two-phase porcelain composition of the present invention can be used to form dental restorations in accordance with procedures that are well known in the art. Thus, the porcelain composition herein can be employed in the manufacture of a PFM restoration which utilizes a high expansion metal alloy or in the manufacture of a high expansion all-ceramic restoration. The porcelain composition of the present invention can also be used as a glaze which can be fused to high expansion ceramics to impart a shiny, smooth surface thereto when it is necessary or desirable to achieve such a surface at a low maturing temperature, e.g., at about 800° C., instead of the natural shine normally obtained at about 925° to 960° C.

The two-phase dental porcelain composition of the present invention comprises:

Oxide	Range	Preferred	Example 1	Example 2
SiO ₂	57-66	58-65	62.1	58.0
Al ₂ O ₃	7-15	8-14	9.8	14.0
K ₂ O	7-15	11-15	14.2	15
Na ₂ O	7-12	7.5-11	7.6	8.1
Li ₂ O	0.5-3	0.7-1.5	1.1	1.5
CaO	0-3	0-1.5	1.0	1.0

Oxide	Range	Preferred	Example 1	Example 2
MgO	0-7	0-5	1.9	1.0
F	0-4	0-3	1.9	1.0
CeO ₂	0-1	0-0.5	0.4	0.4
Coefficient of thermal expansion (RT to 450°C.) (x 10 ⁻⁶ /°C)	12-17.5	12-17.5	15.0	17.4
Maturing Temperature (°C.)	750-1050	800-1000	815	850
Maturing Temperature (°F)	1318-1922	1472-1832	1500	1562

The dental porcelain composition of the present invention is a two-phase glass which contains a leucite crystallite phase dispersed in a feldspathic glass matrix. The leucite crystallites are present in an amount ranging from about 5 to about 65 weight percent based on the weight of the entire composition. In the practice of the present invention, the leucite crystallites present in the composition possess diameters not exceeding about 10 microns, preferably not exceeding about 5 microns, more preferably not exceeding about 1 micron.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the two-phase dental porcelain composition is derived from a blend of a first porcelain component possessing a low fusing temperature and a moderately high coefficient of thermal expansion, such as the porcelain disclosed in copending U.S. Appln. Serial No. 08/532,179, with a second porcelain component possessing a high coefficient of thermal expansion and containing a dispersed crystalline leucite phase wherein the leucite crystallites are less than about 10 microns in diameter. The first porcelain component and second porcelain component are typically blended in a weight ratio of from about 95:5 to about 70:30 to provide a mixture which is then fired at about 850° C. to form the porcelain composition of this invention.

5 The introduction of leucite crystallites in the porcelain composition of this invention raises the coefficient of thermal expansion of the porcelain composition. The porcelain forms a chemical bond with high expansion alloys and ceramics such as Optec™ porcelain when fused thereto and exhibits a thermal expansion which is about 0.5 to $1.5 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$. lower than the thermal expansion of such high expansion alloys or ceramics. The resulting fused restoration is thereby placed in slight compression when cooled to room temperature.

10 The porcelain composition herein has sufficient viscosity at the maturing temperature such that it does not lose its shape yet fires to nearly 100% of theoretical density, thus forming a tight, impervious surface necessary in the oral environment. The fused surface is also nearly perfectly smooth providing a slippery, thus kinder environment to opposing natural dentition than that typically provided by conventional porcelains.

15 The first porcelain component described above is known and can be prepared in accordance with well known procedures. A particularly preferred first porcelain component which can be employed herein is described in the aforementioned U.S. Appln. Serial No. 08/532,179. Porcelains such as SYNSPAR® porcelain and PENCRAFT PLUS™ porcelain (available from Jeneric/Pentron Incorporated of Wallingford, Connecticut), CERAMCO porcelain (available from Ceramco, Inc. of Burlington, New Jersey), and the like, which typically exhibit coefficients of thermal expansion ranging from about $10 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$. to about $14 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$. (room temperature to 450°C) can be suitably employed as the first porcelain component.

20 The preparation of such materials is well known in the art. Ceramic precursors such as silica, alumina, feldspar, calcium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, or if

desired, the actual oxides, are blended, preferably in finely divided power form such as powder sufficiently fine to pass through a 200 mesh screen (Tyler series), and fused at a temperature of at least about 1200° C., and preferably at least about 1400° C., in a crucible to form a glass. The molten glass is then quenched in water, dried, and ground in a ball mill to provide the first porcelain component in the form of a powder. It is preferred that the powder is ground finely enough so that it will pass through a 200 mesh screen (Tyler series).

The first porcelain component utilized herein preferably will possess a fusing temperature of from about 760 to about 815° C. and a coefficient of thermal expansion of from about $10.6 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C.}$ to about $11.6 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C.}$

The second porcelain component of this invention is preferably produced in accordance with the teachings of commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 4,798,536, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein. In accordance therewith, a feldspar, wherein at least a portion of the K_2O , Al_2O_3 , and SiO_2 is employed as a precursor to the formation of leucite ($\text{K}_2\text{O} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 4\text{SiO}_2$) dispersed in glass and is the second porcelain component. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that such leucite crystallites function as nuclei which initiate and promote nucleation and growth in the magma of additional leucite crystallites during the fusing and cooling stages of production. As the magma is cooled, the crystalline leucite becomes less soluble and precipitates out. In accordance with the method of the '536 patent, a feldspar containing crystalline leucite is culled to remove quartz, mica, biotite, etc., ground to a fine powder, passed through a magnetic separator to remove iron impurities, further ground, blended with other desired components, fused at about 2150 to about 2350° F and cooled to form a vitreous body containing a uniform dispersion of leucite

crystallites. The fused, cooled porcelain is then crushed and reduced to a fine powder which can pass through a 180 to 200 mesh screen. The second porcelain component preferably possesses a coefficient of thermal expansion of from about $16 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C.}$ to about $17.5 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C.}$

5 In accordance with the practice of the present invention, the second porcelain component, prior to being combined or blended with the first porcelain component, is treated to separate and isolate leucite crystallites possessing diameters not exceeding about 10 microns. Leucite crystallized possessing diameters not exceeding about 10 microns will impart extremely smooth surfaces to dental restorations produced with the porcelain composition of this invention. The second porcelain component can be treated by mixing the second porcelain component in powder form, such as powder sufficiently fine to pass through a 200 mesh screen (Tyler series), with water in a suitable vessel, allowing the mixture to settle, decanting and retaining the supernatant liquid, mixing the retained supernatant liquid with water in a suitable vessel, allowing the mixture to settle a second time, decanting and retaining the supernatant liquid, evaporating the water of the retained supernatant liquid to provide dried powder and screening the dried powder through 325 (or greater) mesh screen (Tyler series) to break up any agglomerates. By virtue of the foregoing treatment, leucite crystallites possessing diameters not exceeding about 10 microns will be separated and isolated from the second porcelain component. It will be understood by those skilled in the art that variations of the foregoing treatment method or other treatment methods or combinations thereof such as jet milling, air classification, floatation, etc. can be employed herein to separate and isolate the small diameter leucite crystallites.

15 The properties of the first and second porcelain components can be adjusted by
applying well known principles. For example, the coefficient of thermal expansion of either
component can be increased, if desired, by decreasing the proportion of SiO_2 and/or
increasing the proportion of the alkali metal oxides. As is taught in U.S. Patent No.
5 4,798,536, more or less flux (e.g., potassium, lithium, calcium and magnesium compounds)
will increase or decrease the fusing point of the resultant porcelain composition. The fusion
point of either component can be reduced by increasing the proportion of CaO , and/or the
alkali metal oxides. An increase in the $\text{Na}_2\text{O}:\text{K}_2\text{O}$ ratio also lowers the fusion point. It is
well within the skill of the ceramics art to apply these principles to make fine adjustments to
10 the thermal expansion coefficients and fusion temperatures of either component used in the
manufacture of the porcelain composition herein.

15 If desired, in order to assure proper aesthetics, one or more layers of the porcelain
composition of the present invention can be applied over a high expansion metal alloy or
ceramic core with each layer being separately fired. Thus, for example, an opaque layer
containing an opacifying agent such as TiO_2 , SnO_2 , Al_2O_3 , ZnO , CeO_2 , and the like can be
20 applied over the framework and fired. Thereafter, or in lieu thereof, or in combination
therewith, a shaded layer can be applied containing one or more conventional pigments such
as vanadates, manganates, chromates, or other transition metal compounds, to tint the shaded
layer to the desired shade. If desired, a fluorescing agent such as cerium oxide, terbium
oxide, yttrium oxide, and the like, or other conventional additives can also be incorporated
into the porcelain to simulate natural dentition. The opaque and/or fluorescent shaded
layer(s) can then be overcoated (before or after firing), if desired, with the porcelain

composition of the present invention. In this manner, special effects can be obtained, e.g., a different shade at the tip of the restoration than at the gingival area. The porcelain layers can be applied to the framework in the usual manner, as by applying a paste of the porcelain powder in water over the framework, shaping to the desired configuration, and then firing.

5 The present invention can also be used by itself as an inlay/onlay material to replace amalgam, gold or other ceramics. The porcelain of the present invention can be prepared as an inlay/onlay or veneer by building the porcelain powder in the form of an aqueous slurry on an appropriate refractory investment die (such as SYNVEST™ sold by Jeneric/Pentron Incorporated of Wallingford, CT) and then firing the porcelain/die combination to 815°-850° C to effect proper maturation of the porcelain. If desired, those skilled in the art can also use foil techniques which utilize a thin (0.001") piece of platinum or other suitable foil adapted to a gypsum die to hold the porcelain in its proper geometry, remove the foil/porcelain from the gypsum die and fire as before to effect proper fusion of the porcelain. The resultant sample would be placed in the prepared cavity and would result in a smooth surface in contact with the natural dentition.

Further variations and modifications of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing and are intended to be encompassed by the claims appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of fabricating a dental restoration comprising:

providing a framework possessing a coefficient of thermal expansion of as high as about $18 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$; and

fusing a dental porcelain composition comprising a leucite crystallite phase dispersed in a feldspathic glass matrix to said framework to provide a smooth, non-abrasive surface thereon;

said fused dental porcelain composition having a maturing temperature in the range from about 750° to about 1050° C., a coefficient of thermal expansion (room temperature to 450° C.) of from about $12 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$. to about $17.5 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$., and comprising:

Component	Amount (wt. %)
SiO_2	57-66
Al_2O_3	7-15
K_2O	7-15
Na_2O	7-12
Li_2O	0.5-3

and further comprising a dispersed leucite crystallite phase representing from about 5 to about 65 weight percent of the dental porcelain, and wherein the leucite crystallites possess diameters not exceeding about 10 microns.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the leucite crystallites of the fused porcelain have diameters not exceeding about 5 microns.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the leucite crystallite are less than have diameters not exceeding about 1 micron.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the dental porcelain has a maturing temperature of from about 800° to about 1000°C.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the dental porcelain is fired at a temperature ranging from about 780° to about 870°C.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the fused porcelain is a two-phase porcelain.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the fused dental porcelain composition further comprises at least one of:

Component	Amount (wt. %)
CaO	0-3
MgO	0-7
F	0-4
CeO ₂	0-1.

Abstract

A method of fabricating a dental restoration comprising providing a framework possessing a coefficient of thermal expansion of as high as about $18 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$; and using a dental porcelain composition comprising a leucite crystallite phase dispersed in a feldspathic glass matrix to the framework to provide a smooth, non-abrasive surface thereon, wherein the fused dental porcelain composition having a maturing temperature in the range from about 750° to about 1050° C., a coefficient of thermal expansion (room temperature to 450° C.) of from about $12 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$. to about $17.5 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$., and comprising:

Component	Amount (wt. %)
SiO_2	57-66
Al_2O_3	7-15
K_2O	7-15
Na_2O	7-12
Li_2O	0.5-3

and further comprising a dispersed leucite crystallite phase representing from about 5 to about 65 weight percent of the dental porcelain, and wherein the leucite crystallites possess diameters not exceeding about 10 microns.

Combined Declaration for Patent Application and Power of Attorney

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF DENTAL PORCELAIN HAVING SMALL LEUCITE CRYSTALLITES,

the specification of which

(check one) ☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____
and (if applicable) was amended on: _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
(Number)	(Country)	(Day Month Year Filed)	YES	NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States Application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulation, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

08/870,965	June 6, 1997	Pending
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
08/614,044	March 12, 1996	Patented
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Provisional Application No.	Filing Date

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys, with full power of substitution, association, and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

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I hereby further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application of any patent issued thereon.

654727 T5609460

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)Applicant(s): **Carlino Panzera et al**

Docket No.

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Serial No.

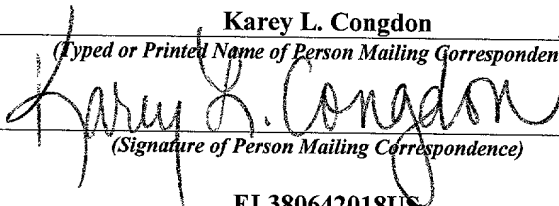
Filing Date
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Examiner

Group Art Unit

Invention: **METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF DENTAL PORCELAIN HAVING SMALL LEUCITE CRYSTALLITES**I hereby certify that this **Utility Patent Application Transmittal***(Identify type of correspondence)*

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under
37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on
December 14, 1999

*(Date)***Karey L. Congdon***(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)**(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)***EL380642018US***("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number)***Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.**